IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous claims with the following claims:

1-105. (canceled)

106. (currently amended) Apparatus for upgrading a capability of a set top terminal (STT), ~~said~~ the STT adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a cable television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, ~~said~~ the apparatus comprising:

a STT interface, for enabling communication with ~~said~~ the STT;

an upgrade decryption module, for decrypting an encrypted ~~program~~ downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed ~~program~~ downstream communication signal; and

an upgrade encryption module, for encrypting an upstream ~~transmission~~ communication signal comprising ~~at least one of~~ audio and video data;

wherein the apparatus prepares the upstream communication signal for transmission over a transmission network of the cable television program delivery system.

107. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein:

~~said~~ the STT including a first decryption module, for decrypting a television program signal encrypted according to a first encryption format;

~~said~~ the upgrade decryption module decrypting ~~a program~~ the downstream communication signal encrypted according to a second encryption format.

108. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 107, wherein:

~~said~~ the first encryption format comprises a video encryption format; and

~~said~~ the second encryption format comprises an audio encryption format and a video encryption format.

109. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:

a[[n]] channel decoder ~~upgrade tuner~~, for selecting a channel including at least one encrypted ~~audio~~ downstream communication signal ~~stream~~; and

a demultiplexer, for coupling ~~an encrypted audio stream~~ a compressed downstream communication signal to ~~said~~ an upgrade ~~decryption~~ decompression module.

110. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 109, further comprising:

an video ~~audio~~ decompressi~~o~~nor ~~module~~, for decompressing ~~said~~ the compressed ~~program~~ downstream communication signal provided by said upgrade decryption module.

111. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:

~~a tuner, for selecting a data stream including a plurality of encrypted data streams;~~

~~a demodulator, for demodulating said data stream to produce a demodulated data stream; and~~

a demultiplexer, ~~for extracting an encrypted data stream from said demodulated data stream, said encrypted data stream being~~ coupled to ~~said~~ the upgrade decryption module, for demultiplexing audio and video signals from the decrypted downstream communication signal; and

a synchronizer, for synchronizing the demultiplexed audio and video signals.

112. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein ~~said~~ the STT includes a first processor for controlling circuitry adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed video program signals, decompress a compressed video program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, ~~said~~ the apparatus further comprising:

an upgrade processor, for communicating with ~~said~~ the first processor via ~~said~~ the STT interface, ~~said~~ the upgrade processor controlling ~~said~~ the upgrade decryption module and the upgrade encryption module.

113. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein ~~said~~ the STT is adapted to provide user interface menu imagery via ~~said~~ the output signal.

114. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein ~~said~~ the apparatus is adapted to provide user interface menu imagery via ~~said~~ the output signal.

115. (currently amended) A set top terminal (STT) architecture, comprising:

first circuitry adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a cable television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device; and

upgrade circuitry, adapted to increase a capability of ~~said~~ the first circuitry by providing:

~~(i)~~ an upgrade encryptor, for encrypting an upstream ~~transmission~~ communication signal comprising ~~at least one of~~ audio and video data;[[,]] and

~~(ii) at least one of~~ an upgrade ~~tuner, an upgrade~~ decryptor ~~and an upgrade decompresser~~, for decrypting an encrypted downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed downstream communication signal,

wherein the upgrade prepares the upstream communication signal for transmission over a transmission network of the television program delivery system; and

an interface, for enabling communication between ~~said~~ the first circuitry and ~~said~~ the upgrade circuitry.

116. (currently amended) The architecture of claim 115, wherein:

~~said~~ the first circuitry including a first decryptor for decrypting [[a]] the television program signal encrypted according to a first encryption format;

~~said~~ the upgrade decryptor for decrypting ~~a program~~ the downstream communication signal encrypted according to a second encryption format.

117. (currently amended) The architecture of claim 116, wherein:

~~said~~ the first encryption format comprises a video encryption format; and

~~said~~ the second encryption format comprises an audio encryption format and a video encryption format.

118. (currently amended) The architecture of claim 116, ~~wherein~~ comprising:

~~said~~ an upgrade ~~tuner~~ channel decoder for selecting a channel including at least one encrypted video communication signal ~~audio stream~~; and

~~said~~ an upgrade demultiplexer coupling ~~an encrypted audio~~ the compressed video communication stream to ~~said~~ an upgrade ~~decryption~~ decompression module.

119. (new) The apparatus of claim 115, the upgrade circuitry further comprising:

a demultiplexer, coupled to the upgrade decryptor, for demultiplexing audio and video signals from the decrypted downstream communication signal; and

a synchronizer, for synchronizing the demultiplexed audio and video signals.

120. (new) A set top terminal (STT) adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, the STT comprising:

an decryption module, for decrypting an encrypted downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed downstream communication signal;

an encryption module, for encrypting an upstream communication signal comprising audio and video data; and

a transmitter for transmitting the upstream communication signal over a transmission network of the television program delivery system.